

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 TRSE-00 OES-07 EB-08
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153743

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: ENGR, NI

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY COMMISSIONER FOR PETROLEUM RESOURCES
BUHARI

REF: A) LAGOS 6410; B) LAGOS 6627

1. AT NIGERIAN EMBASSY'S REQUEST, WE HAVE PROVIDED DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONFIRMING BUHARI'S 3 PM, JUNE 30 APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. HOWEVER, EMBASSY OTHERWISE UNINFORMED AS TO HIS PLANS IN US. REQUEST EMBASSY ASCERTAIN BUHARI'S ETA AND ETD.

2. AT TIME OF ABORTED MAY 30 VISIT (REF B), WE HAD ARRANGED MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TREASURY FOR TAX POLICY DONALD LUBICK. TREASURY WAS AND STILL IS FULLY PREPARED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS BUHARI MAY WISH TO RAISE REGARDING RECENT IRS RULINGS (REF A, PARA 3C) PLEASE DETERMINE IF BUHARI STILL DESIRES MEETING WITH
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TREASURY AND URGE MEA TO ADVISE NIGERIAN EMBASSY. FYI: STATE AND TREASURY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT OIL COMPANIES UTILIZE THEIR CONTACTS IN LAGOS TO BRIEF THE FMG REGARDING ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THAT MAY EXIST UNDER THE IRS RULINGS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NIGERIAN TAX LAWS AND TO IMPRESS UPON BUHARI AND OTHER NNPC OFFICIALS

THAT THE PRINCIPLES IN THE IRS RULINGS ARE OF GENERAL APPLICATION AND HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE TREASURY.

3. REF B INDICATED EMBASSY PETROL OFF HAD MAY 30 MEETING TO DISCUSS IRS RULING WITH MARINHO. PLEASE PROVIDE SUMMARY OF MEETING.

4. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO ARRANGE ANY OTHER APPOINTMENTS DESIRED BY BUHARI. PLEASE ADVISE. WE HAVE ARRANGED VIP SEATING FOR BUHARI TO ATTEND FRIDAY EVENING MARINE CORPS RETREAT CEREMONY IF HE SO DESIRES. CEREMONY THAT EVENING WILL BE IN HONOR OF RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT COMMANDANT. CORPS COMMANDANT WILL ATTEND.

5. PLEASE PROVIDE UPDATE ON LNG PROJECT PROMISED REF A. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF FMG CONCERNS REGARDING US STRATEGIC RESERVES. SHOULD WE ANTICIPATE THAT BUHARI WILL RAISE THIS QUESTION? NEWSOM

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NNN

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